

Appl. No. 10/679,081 Amdt. dated Reply to Office action of November 3, 2005

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (withdrawn) A process for the differential diagnosis of primary Sjögren's Syndrome comprising:

obtaining a blood sample; and

determining the presence therein of an autoantibody to ICA69;

whereby the presence of said autoantibody confirms a diagnosis of primary Sjögren's Syndrome.

Claim 2. (previously presented) An immunotherapeutic process for alleviating and/or reversing the progression of symptoms characteristic of primary Sjögren's Syndrome comprising:

administering to a mammal exhibiting said symptoms an ABBOS peptide which targets ICA69-specific T cells in a manner effective to induce tolerance to a relevant ICA69 epitope

whereby a reduction in the symptoms characteristic of primary Sjögren's Syndrome is attained.

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Claim 3. (withdrawn-currently amended) A transgenic [[NON]] NOD congenic mouse [[in]] characterized by inactivation of the genomic ICA69 locus.

Claim 4. (withdrawn) An assay for monitoring the disease status of a patient diagnosed with primary Sjögren's Syndrome comprising;

periodically obtaining a blood sample from said patient; and periodically analyzing said blood sample for the presence and or quantity of autoantibodies to ICA69;

whereby the presence or relative increase or decrease in ICA69 autoantibody concentration is indicative of the disease status of said patient.

Claim 5. (previously presented) A process for reversing the symptoms of sialoadenitis and dacryadenitis associated with late stage primary Sjögren's Syndrome comprising:

administering to a mammal exhibiting said symptoms an ABBOS peptide which targets ICA69-specific T cells in a manner effective to induce immunotherapeutic tolerance to ICA69;

whereby a reversal of the symptoms of sialoadenitis and dacryadenitis associated with late stage primary Sjögren's Syndrome is attained.

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Claim 6. (previously presented) The immunotherapeutic process according to claim 2 wherein said ABBOS peptide comprises SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 7. (previously presented) The immunotherapeutic process according to claim 5 wherein said ABBOS peptide comprises SEQ ID NO:2.